

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a customer of DIRECTV, I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me local TV channels via satellite in my market area, which I currently do not receive.

I currently have broadband access to the Internet, but the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in increased competition in the broadband market by providing an affordable high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite.

I currently have to pay my local cable company for access to local channels and broadband. While I cannot receive acceptable television signals over the air at my location, I've been restricted from receiving national network programming.

My preference would be to receive all of the services from the merged satellite company. The worst satellite signals are vastly superior to the poor picture quality I receive from the cable provider.

Without the merger, DirecTV and EchoStar will continue to increase data compression ratios to be able to add channels. This will result in decreasing image quality.

What will happen to me if DirecTV has the programming I want but say EchoStar adds my local channels. I do not want to incur the expense of having to buy two sets of satellite equipment just because there are two different companies.

What tremendous waste of valuable CONUS slots is happening with all of the duplication of programming between DirecTV and EchoStar.

Please approve this merger. It will be the best thing for the average American like me.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Britton Robbins  
3431 Newark-Marion Rd.  
Marion, NY 14505